

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of heads head disposed in a staggering overlapping relationship in a width direction of a printing medium, each one of the plurality of heads including a plurality of ink discharging portions provided in a juxtaposed linear relationship thereon, a pitch between ink discharging portions located at ends of adjacent heads is identical to a space between ink discharging portions of each of the plurality of heads, each one of the plurality of ink discharging portions configured to deflect an ink droplet to be discharged therefrom in a plurality of directions coplanar with the line connecting the ink discharging portions and to set a discharging deflection angle which is a maximum deflection amount of the ink droplet to be discharged from said ink discharging portions to a plurality of angles,

wherein[[:]],

the head is configured to determine a printing resolution, in response to print data from between or among a plurality of printing resolutions which are determined based on a distance separating said ink discharging portions, the discharging deflection angle of the ink droplet to be discharged from said ink discharging portions and a plurality of directions in which the ink droplet can be discharged from said ink discharging portions,

the head is configured to select ink discharging portions from which an ink droplet can be discharged and the discharging deflection angle of the discharged ink droplet based on the determined printing resolution, and to determine the discharging direction of one or two or more ink droplets from the selected ink discharging portions, and

the head is configured to determine the discharging direction of the ink droplet for each of the selected ink discharging portions to execute printing with the determined printing resolution.

3. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein printing resolutions of said printing apparatus corresponding to print data are determined in advance, and a printing resolution is determined in response to the print data based on the determination.

4. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, where the resolution of the print data is M , if said printing apparatus has $M \times n$ (n being a natural number) or $M \times 1/n$ as a printing resolution with which said printing apparatus can print, then the printing resolution is determined to $M \times n$ or $M \times 1/n$.

5. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, where the print data includes information of a resolution or a number of pixels together with information of a print size, the printing resolution is determined based on the information of the print size and the resolution or the information of the print size and the number of pixels.

6. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, in response to the print data, part of the print data is determined to a first printing resolution and the other part of the print data is determined to a second printing resolution different from the first printing resolution.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A printing method in which a plurality of heads head disposed in an staggered overlapping relationship in a width direction of a printing medium, a pitch between ink discharging portions located at ends of adjacent heads is identical to a space between ink discharging portions of each of the plurality of heads, each one of the plurality of heads including a plurality of ink discharging portions provided in a juxtaposed linear relationship thereon is used, the method comprising the steps of:

deflecting a discharging direction of an ink droplet to be discharged from each of said ink discharging portions to a plurality of directions coplanar with the line connecting said ink discharging portions and the discharging deflection angle which is a maximum deflection

amount of the ink droplet to be discharged from said ink discharging portions can be set to a plurality of angles;

determining a printing resolution in response to print data from between or among a plurality of printing resolutions which are determined based on a distance separating said ink discharging portions, the discharging deflection angle of the ink droplet to be discharged from said ink discharging portions and a plurality of directions in which an ink droplet can be discharged from said ink discharging portions;

selecting ink discharging portions from which the ink droplet can be discharged and the discharging deflection angle of the ink droplet based on the determined printing resolution and determining the discharging direction of one or two or more ink droplets from the selected ink discharging portions on one line is determined; and

determining the discharging direction of an ink droplet for each of the selected ink discharging portions to execute printing with the printing resolution determined in response to the print data from between or among the plurality of printing resolutions.